

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Amended) A traveling wave optical modulator comprising:
- an optical waveguide substrate made of an electro-optic and ferroelectric single crystal in the form of an X- or Y-orientation plate and comprising a thicker portion having a larger thickness and a thinner portion having a smaller thickness;
- at least first and second branched optical waveguide portions formed at least on the thinner portion of the optical waveguide substrate;
- a set of electrodes provided on at least the thinner portion of the substrate and adapted for applying voltage to at least said first and second optical waveguide portions to modulate a light propagating the optical waveguide portions; and
- a buffer layer provided to cover a part of the optical waveguide portions at the thinner portion of the substrate, the electrodes crossing on the buffer layer.

3. (Amended) The traveling wave optical modulator set forth in claim 2, wherein each of said plural buffer layers has a band-like shape extending along the optical waveguide portion.

Please add new claims 7-10 as follows:

7. (New) The traveling wave optical modulator set forth in claim 2, wherein at least one end portion of the buffer layer or at least one buffer layer as viewed along the optical waveguide portions is provided with a taper portion of which thickness gradually changes as viewed along the optical waveguide.

8. (New) The traveling wave optical modulator set forth in claim 3, wherein at least one end portion of the buffer layer or at least one buffer layer as viewed along the optical waveguide portions is provided with a taper portion of which thickness gradually changes as viewed along the optical waveguide.

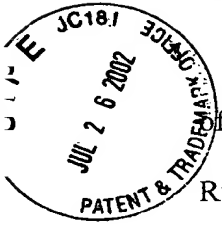
9. (New) The traveling wave optical modulator set forth in claim 2, which is adapted to pass a TE mode light through the optical waveguide portions.

10. (New) The traveling wave optical modulator set forth in claim 3, which is adapted to pass a TE mode light through the optical waveguide portions.

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In the Abstract:



Attached hereto as page 10, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(iii), is a marked-up version of the Abstract showing changes being made thereto. Attached hereto as page 11, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(1)(ii) is a clean version of the Abstract incorporating the changes being made thereto. Please replace the original Abstract with the new Abstract attached as page 11.

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